



Brandon Neilan, 14, who lives in Lacamas Shores, walks his two dogs, chocolate Lab Charlie and cocker spaniel Annie, along Heritage Trail.

Sidewalk:

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trail continued and a higher trail to my left headed into Lacamas Shores.

In short order, I found myself in the lap of luxury on Northwest Lacamas Drive, with its two- and three-story colonnaded homes decorated with fabulous stone and masonry. This development overlooking the lake has been around for about a dozen years, but even now some choice view lots are vacant.

I walked with notebook in

hand, a stranger in an area that has been targeted by car prowlers. A blue Nissan SUV passed slowly, turned around and returned. Its occupants took a good look at me.

"Everything OK?" I asked. "Yeah," the driver said, before moving on.

A more friendly denizen was Bob Wakefield, who was tending the driveway of his home overlooking the lake.

As a resident for 12 years, Wakefield is one of the neighborhood's originals. He waterskis on the lake in summer's early mornings. As president of the homeowners association, he serves as a local en-



Photos by STEVEN LANE/The Columbian

Golfers finish up on a green at Camas Meadows Golf Course, part of which runs through a portion of the Lacamas Shores subdivision in Camas.

thusiast.

Although the neighborhood is large, with 200 of its 238 lots built upon, residents are close-knit, he says.

A case in point is the Fourth of July, when celebrations begin with a children's parade down Lacamas Drive. After that

there are footraces, from one to nine miles, for adults and children, and a noon barbecue.

As the year goes by, there are Easter egg hunts and Christmas parties for kids. Every three months, neighbors throw what they call a "progressive party," in which

residents of one home serve hors d'oeuvres to visitors, who then move to a second home where desserts are offered.

When new neighbors move in, a welcoming committee brings them an information packet and flowers, Wakefield said.

And these folks, who can afford to hire their help, even throw work parties to plant shrubs and pick up litter.

"Working shoulder to shoulder makes it easier to get acquainted with your neighbors, and that's what it's all about," Wakefield said.